295 is 70 workers, who are also share-holders, receiving 20 per cent. of
474 the annual income in addition to regular wages for work performed.

Before the war the "Red Shoemaker" artel was situated in a different part of the city. The production process was then entirely mechanized, and the membership consisted of 300 workers. The plant was demolished by the Germans during the war; and the present artel was organized in 1945 when five pre-war members returned to Minsk, following the liberation. At present there is practically no machinery in the artel, and shoes are being turned out by hand.

Medical Supplies: General Health

727 In relation to the vast destruction of Byelorussian medical facilities during the war, the UNRRA medical programme of just over one million dollars is a drop in a bucket. According to official Soviet estimates, the Germans in Byelorussia "ruined and plundered 1,136 hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries," which represented 75 per cent. of all hospitals and almost 100 per cent. of the medical supplies and equipment of the Republic. The damage has been calculated at 600 million roubles (about 120 million dollars).

164 Byelorussian officials today say that the general health of the population is below pre-war standards; but there are no alarming epidemics. Infant mortality is higher than in 1940; and tuberculosis, which increased markedly during the war, is still a serious problem, especially among returned war prisoners, partisans, and former "slave labourers". Typhus, which flared up during the German occupation, still occurs sporadically; and malaria, which spread rapidly during the war when no treatment was available, is still widely prevalent, but is being gradually reduced by the restoration of swamp drainage and mosquito control projects.

146 The most general problem is perhaps malnutrition; and because of the food shortages, scurvy, rickets, and anaemia are prevalent. Children are small for their age; and the adult population, as might be expected in the absence of adequate food, clothing, and shelter, is not in optimum health.

UNRRA Shipments

648 Up to January 31, 1947, nearly 70 per cent. of the UNRRA medical
742 programme for Byelorussia had been fulfilled; 163 gross long tons of drugs and equipment had been shipped. The largest single item of the medical programme is a penicillin plant, parts of which began to arrive in the U.S.S.R. in December 1946. In connection with the plant, the Byelorussian Government has designated a penicillin trainee to study penicillin production in Canada. A specialist hired by UNRRA is to aid in assembling the plant and in training other Byelorussian technicians in the production of the drug. The Byelorussian Government has expressed interest in using the same plant for the production of streptomycin.

V OUTLOOK IN 1947

146 Although there has been no starvation in the B.S.S.R., almost everyone is undernourished. There is still an acute shortage of fats and oils, meat, milk, and sugar. Such of these foods as were available in 1946 were chiefly from UNRRA; and now that UNRRA food shipments have ceased, there will undoubtedly be privation. The shortage of fats and oils will continue until domestic livestock herds are fattened and replenished; in the meantime, only external help will alleviate the scarcity.

262 Much depends on a good harvest this year. Last December the B.S.S.R. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Krupenya, in a conference with the UNRRA Mission, stressed the importance of increased food production in 1947 - more seeds, more tractors, more farm workers. A part of the interview is reproduced below. Mr. Waller is Chief of the UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia.

Mr. Waller: "In our observations we have seen villages where there was such devastation that the people...had to be helped with food this year. Will the same need exist next year?"

Mr. Krupenya: "In some areas it will not be possible to cover the local needs from the produce of the local farms. The population of extremely devastated areas will stand in need of assistance...The government is making plans to assist them."

Mr. Waller: "What per cent. or number of the village people will need assistance?"

Mr. Krupenya: "It is hard to say exactly, but at least ten to fifteen per cent. of the rural population in Byelorussia..."

Mr. Waller: "Will there be starvation (in the B.S.S.R.) if no aid from outside is forthcoming?"

Mr. Krupenya: "Conditions will be difficult, and aid from outside the Republic will be necessary...Every effort will be made to keep the people from starving."

Mr. Waller: "If no other aid is received from outside, and without further UNRRA assistance, will there be any danger of starvation?"